OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO LTC# 263-2012

## LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO:

Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM:

Kathie Brooks, Interim City Manager

DATE:

October 11, 2012

SUBJECT: Academia de Liderazgo!: The Leadership Academy for Spanish speakers.

The purpose of this LTC is to inform you that the City of Miami Beach Leadership Academy will be running a Leadership Academy in Spanish.

"Academia de Liderazgo!" begins November 7, 2012 for 12 weeks. We are excited to continue a program that will reach our Spanish speaking population and inform them of city services. The City of Miami Beach is committed to embracing diversity for all people who live, work and play here.

"Academia de Liderazgo!" is designed and modeled after the original Leadership Academy, which is designed to educate Miami Beach residents and business owners about their local government, and foster positive relationships between residents and city staff.

Many people who have completed the program have made successful application to boards and committees, and generally, the boards compose at least 40% of graduates. Graduates are also involved in consultation panels, review and selection committees and are participating civically through volunteer efforts with the city and our partners.

"Academia de Liderazgo!" will be essentially the same class conducted Spanish. We are partnering with Unidad, who will be facilitating the presentations at the new community center at 73<sup>rd</sup> street. All presentations have been successfully translated into Spanish and Spanish speaking employees have been identified for each presentation. The timetable is available online. Residents and business owners can apply on line or by telephone. We are conducting outreach efforts to Spanish speaking agencies and the Spanish media.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Caroline DeFreze ext. 6752 or cdefreze@miamibeachfl.gov.

KGB/CJD

cc: Max Sklar, Acting Assistant City Manager

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